

## Soka University of America Takes Flight

By JAMIE LIPTAN  
STAFF WRITER

On May 3, under beautiful skies and in grand style, Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo was officially dedicated. More than 2,500 people attended the day-long event, with even more witnessing the ceremony on the university's Web site, [www.soka.edu](http://www.soka.edu).

"It is my hope and desire that an unbroken succession of outstanding leaders will depart from these gates to serve humanity in the 21st century," said SGI President and SUA Founder Daisaku Ikeda in his message to the event (see p. 4 for full message). "It is my hope and desire that these waves of world citizens, united and awakened to a genuine global ethic, will spread without cease into an ever more brilliant future."

PLEASE SEE SUA, 7

Photo by GREGORY NAKASUJI



At the official dedication of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo on May 3, doves are released in front of Founders Hall and Peace Fountain.

## FIRST SUA CLASS COMES TOGETHER

By ALEXIS TRASS  
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

In the faces of those attending the dedication ceremony for Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo on May 3, a bright hope could be seen. One reason for the spirited mood was the presence of 75 of the 120 students accepted into SUA's first class, set to start classes this fall.

The 120 students hail from 17 states and 16 foreign countries and territories, including Argentina, India and Zambia. Those who were part of the May 3 dedication were met with thunderous applause from the more than 2,500 SUA staff, faculty, supporters and community members in attendance when they entered the cere-

Photo by GREGORY NAKASUJI



Representatives of the first class at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo gather to celebrate the university's dedication, May 3.

mony. This ovation underscored the sense of responsibility these students feel at being the ones blazing a new trail for world peace.

One student, Keiko Kubo, said: "I feel a great responsibility. Everyone has high expectations for us, and it's an honor to be here, to be a student of SUA."

This sentiment seemed to ring true of other students. Patrick McMahon of Seattle is leaving the University of Washington after spending two years there. He decided to attend SUA because the faculty impressed him, and he is interested in educational reform. "I didn't want to be foolish enough to pass up an opportunity like this," he said.

When Nathan Gauer of Washington, D.C., was asked why he decided to attend the new university, he said: "I think this is the only school that will enable me to be human and not a robot. I have a lot to offer and can't be limited. Being surrounded by faculty and students like me will help bring forth my potential. What better place to do that than SUA?"

Today, I've realized how many people are depending on this first class of students. I will respond to those expectations."

In his message for the SUA dedication, SGI President Ikeda, who is also the university's founder, said to the students: "I place all my trust and hopes in you. I entrust you with the realization of all my dreams for the future. At the same time, you must know that you are the focus of the hopes and expectations of so many of your fellow citizens worldwide. I hope that you will bear the weight of this great burden of expectation with patience and grace. For it is indeed the first graduating class that will set the direction and determine the success or failure of Soka University of America." **WT**

# THE LOTUS FLOWER

Back to the Basics

By DAVE McNEILL  
WEST HILLS, CALIF.



Blossom by blossom the spring begins," a poet writes. The first flowers of spring can make the heart leap for joy. And if you've ever grown vegetables in your backyard, you know that flowers mean something more: the tomatoes, zucchini or green beans are soon to follow.

Remember elementary school biology? When flowers open, their color and scent attract bees that squeeze in through the petals to gather nectar. Pollen sticks to legs and wings and gets carried to the next flower, completing fertilization. Its mission over, the flower fades, and fruit soon appears, filled with the

seeds for new plants. The process is a clear example of a cause leading to an effect. But the lotus flower (Jpn *renga*) is unique. When its petals unfold, they reveal a fruit, or seedpod, fully developed. The "cause" and "effect" occur simultaneously.

Hence the title "Lotus" Sutra, one of whose main messages is the simultaneity of cause and effect. This principle means that the instant we offer a prayer, the effect registers in the depths of our lives. Of course, it may not

appear visibly right away, but the moment we chant to get that job, solve a relationship problem, overcome an illness or whatever, we are guaranteed to see a result.

As Nichiren Daishonin writes: "Of all the flowers, [the Buddha] selected the lotus blossom to symbolize the Lotus Sutra. There is a reason for this.... The benefit of all the other sutras is uncertain, because they teach that one must first make good causes and only then can one become a Buddha at some later time. With regard to the Lotus Sutra, when one's hand takes it up, that hand immediately attains Buddhahood, and when one's mouth chants it, that mouth is itself a Buddha..." (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 1099).

In Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, there is no path (cause) to Buddhahood (effect)—the path *is* Buddhahood. The efforts we make as Bodhisattvas of the Earth are

the actions of a Buddha.

We display our Buddhahood in our daily lives in this mundane world, not on a mountain-top or in some "pure" land.

The lotus also symbolizes this empowering idea. It grows in mud, the deeper and muckier the better. Yet it stays pristine. Though mud clings to the leaves of most plants, not so with the lotus. Nothing sticks. (Interestingly, science has recognized this self-cleaning attribute and aptly named it the "lotus effect," applying the principle to various technologies—even a self-cleaning house paint called Lotusan.)

Out of the muddy swamp blossoms the pure lotus. Out of our swamp of suffering springs our Buddhahood. Thanks to the mud, the lotus can survive. Thanks to all the problems we have to face, we can reveal the power within us.

And thanks to our deep sense of mission as Bodhisattvas of the Earth, we remain unswayed by the world around us.

"The Lotus Sutra speaks of the pure white lotus rising from the waters of a muddy pond," writes SGI President Ikeda.

"This analogy illustrates the attainment of a pure and empowered state of life in the midst of the sometimes degrading realities of human society. In this way, the bodhisattva never tries to escape from reality, never leaves suffering people unsaved and plunges into the turbulent waters of life in the effort to help each person drowning in suffering onto the great vessel of happiness" (May 1998 *Living Buddhism*, p. 32).

Through this kind of faith and practice, we cultivate our lives like a gardener works the soil. But the flower of our Buddhahood doesn't need to wait for spring to arrive. It can bloom every day and gladden the hearts of all who see it.

*The lotus flower has much more symbolism than can be discussed in one article. To read more on the cultural history of the lotus, see President Ikeda's "Dialogue on the Lotus Sutra" in the November 1997 Living Buddhism, available on the Pubs 97-98 CD-ROM, or in the upcoming third volume of The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra, available this spring.*

# The Importance of Grasping the Time

WORDS To WIN By

By KATHLEEN OLESKY  
NORTHEASTERN ZONE  
VICE WOMEN'S LEADER



From the "The Selection of the Time," *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, pp. 538-94.

When it comes to studying the teachings of Buddhism, one must first learn to understand the time.... The cuckoo sings when spring is waning, the cock waits until the break of day to crow. If even these lowly creatures have such an understanding of time, then how can a person who wishes to practice the teachings of Buddhism fail to make certain what time it is? (WND, 538)

By using metaphors from the natural world of the instinctual timing of the cuckoo's song and the cock's crow, Nichiren Daishonin ex-

plains the importance of practitioners of Buddhism correctly grasping the time.

The year before this letter was written, 1274, Japan had been attacked by the Mongol expeditionary force. Due to severe storms, the invasion attempt was thwarted, but the nation of Japan was thrown into turmoil. The Daishonin lays blame for the disasters that have befallen the country including the present "calamity of invasion from foreign lands" on belief in erroneous teachings.

According to Buddhist scholars, the Latter Day of the Law would be a time of unrest and chaos, when people's lives,

clouded by illusions originating in fundamental darkness, would be filled with suffering. The most prevalent Buddhist teaching of the time was the Pure Land sect, which defined this world as an impure land and asserted that one can attain rebirth in the Pure Land of Perfect Bliss by relying on the power of Amida Buddha.

But the Daishonin perceived the Latter Day of Law to be the very time when the great pure Law of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo would provide people the path for achieving Buddhahood without changing their form as ordinary people. The Daishonin thus exhorts, "One must first learn to understand the time" (WND, 538).

Time is one of the five criteria or guidelines for propagation: the teaching, the people's capacity, the time, the country and the sequence of propagation. "The Selection of the Time" places the greatest emphasis upon the factor of time.

It is at times of uncertainty and change that religion emerges as a means to guide and sustain humanity. SGI President Ikeda thus writes

that "there was a period in the history of the Holy Roman Empire called the Great Interregnum. During that period the empire's throne was vacant for all practical purposes. Interestingly, this coincides with the period in which the Daishonin lived. Today, after the Cold War, we are living in a Great Interregnum of Philosophy, an era in which there is an absence of any guiding philosophy. That is why this is precisely the time to speak of the Lotus Sutra, long known as the king of sutras" (*The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra*, vol. 1, pp. 7-8).

The Daishonin conveys in the passage above his unwavering conviction that in any age, what people seek deep in their hearts is the happiness that wells forth from the depths of life. He explains that by chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo to the Gohonzon and teaching this philosophy to others, we can transform our lives at the most fundamental level and attain Buddhahood. We can change the direction of times in this way, too.

The Daishonin asks us to be

secure in the knowledge that because we embrace and propagate faith in the Gohonzon, we will definitely establish happiness as solid and indestructible as a diamond. We will continue to do so in lifetime after lifetime throughout the Latter Day—for the happiness of ourselves and for others. **WT**

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EXPERIENCE — KAZUHIRO NAGAHAMA, LOS ANGELES

# Finding the Answer

**Kazuhiro Nagahama uses his practice to stop chronic heart attacks that threaten to take his life.**

When I was a junior high school student, I was very active and enjoyed school life. One day, as I was leaving school to go home, I felt a sharp pain in my heart and fell to the floor. Fortunately, there were teachers and students nearby, and they called for an ambulance.

I was taken to the hospital and learned that I had my first heart attack. The doctor examined me closely and concluded that I had variant angina pectoris, a type of heart disease. It was rare to get this kind of disease at my age.

From that point on, my life completely changed. I continued to have heart attacks. No matter what I was doing, they might occur at any time of the day.

The attacks were unimaginably painful and almost killed me every time. I even thought that I would rather die than go on living that way. I started to wonder why I had been born, and I looked for a way to somehow find meaning in my life. Nobody could believe that I had this problem while being so young.

When I was a high school student, I started to read the Bible, which fascinated me. A Catholic priest instructed me, and I thought about becoming a priest for the rest of my life. At that time, I thought, I was gaining fulfillment from Christianity. But I continued suffering and experiencing heart attacks. It was at this point that my grandmother joined the SGI.

I had a negative image of the SGI from the Japanese media. I could not understand what the organization was about. My grandmother never asked me to chant — she always chanted for me and said she believed in me. SGI members would sometimes visit me, and although I did not like them, they kept visiting me until we could really talk and eventually chant. But, to be honest, I still thought that I hated them.

But my heart started to change. Through the SGI mem-

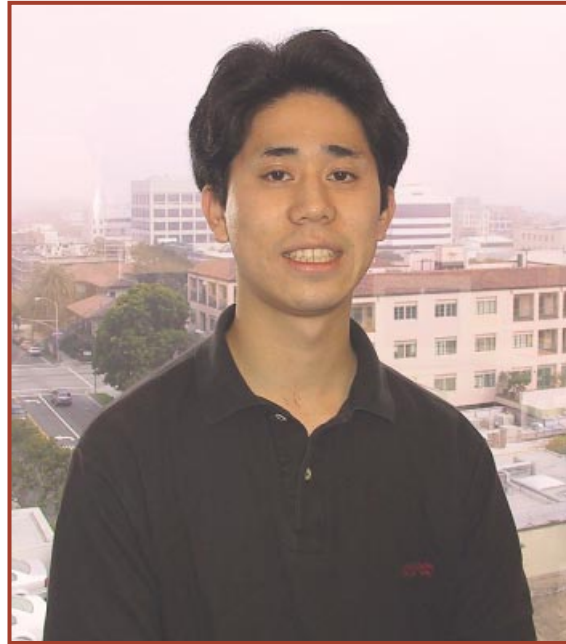


Photo by GARY MURIE

bers' influence, I started to think about my life again. As I started to attend SGI activities, I felt joy, peace and extreme power and warmth from the members.

The ideals of the SGI matched my own original idea that religion was for ordinary people, not only for a special group. But I did not see this being put into practice in other religions. In fact, I felt they used people to make money, and the people did not become happy. Yet these people would not leave these religions. I wondered why. Why were they doing this without thinking?

I realized that, beginning with first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the SGI had been trying to destroy the accepted idea of religion for religion's sake. After this realization, I started to chant more and study about the SGI.

I learned that in Buddhism, we already have Buddhahood within our heart. We just need to bring it out and develop this humanitarian state by practicing. And after more chanting and reflection, I joined the SGI.

Once I joined, someone recommended that I apply to Soka University of Japan. I was impressed with this member's character and vision, and he admired SGI President Ikeda, who founded Soka University. I decided to chant to attend and

was accepted in 1996. I was fortunate enough to see President Ikeda at the entrance ceremony, and his warmth and sincerity touched me.

My grandmother and other members were pleased that I got accepted. And I was happy that I would be attending a school where I knew I would be able to learn and grow.

However, I still struggled with my disease. In fact, it was getting worse and worse. I started to chant to overcome this disease once and for all. Almost every morning, I experienced a heart attack and could not move. Every morning I did gongyo in bed crying. I really wanted to know the answer to why I could not change this problem.

One day in 1997, I was walking around the Pond of Literature on the Soka University campus, thinking about my life. I was tired of thinking about my health condition every day and was even contemplating suicide. While sitting on a bench by the pond, some cars drove by, and I realized that President Ikeda was inside one of them. His car drove in front of me and suddenly stopped. I kept looking at his car and then saw the car's window opening and someone calling to me.

At first I could not understand what was happening. The man calling me over was Pres-

ident Ikeda. At first I was confused. He kept calling me, and I rushed up to his car. He was saying, "Come here, closer to me." I got so close that my head was almost inside his car. Sitting there was President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko.

He asked me about my family and my hometown. I was in shock and could not believe this was happening. He kept holding my hand and looking straight into my eyes. Near the end of our encounter, I explained my health problem. He encouraged me very strongly and gave me some advice: "Become stronger and stronger."

Because of his encouragement, something inside me changed. I decided to follow his advice. The next day, I tried to chant 10 hours. I felt myself getting stronger and stronger. As I faced the Gohonzon, I promised that I would stay with the SGI and President Ikeda.

By the time I was a senior, my heart attacks completely stopped. I was able to function as never before. Even riding in a plane, which previously I could not do because of my health, was no longer a problem. The fact that I am now able to study English in Los Angeles and enjoy my life here so much is great actual proof for me.

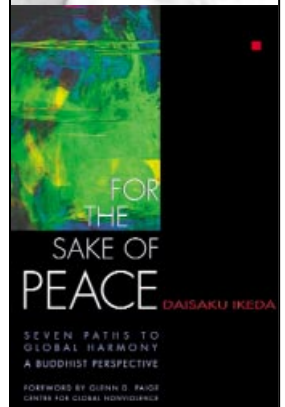
I am so appreciative to have such a great mentor, President Ikeda. Every time I met him from that first encounter, I was more and more impressed and I am determined to continue to learn from him.

I truly believe that President Ikeda is a great teacher, who understands what each of us is doing and what we are going through. He understands our trials, and encourages us to have the strength we need to overcome them.

President Ikeda once wrote, "Only the person who struggles can experience true faith." I have made a promise that whenever I face problems, I will never give up. I will always stick with the Gohonzon and the SGI. I have gained confidence that, no matter what happens, I will never be swayed. **WT**

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## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE SUA DEDICATION

# NEW LEADERS FOR A NEW CENTURY

**SGI President Ikeda shares his dream for SUA: 'It is my hope and desire that an unbroken succession of outstanding leaders will depart from these gates to serve humanity in the 21st century. It is my hope and desire that the waves of world citizens, united and awakened to a genuine global ethic, will spread without cease into an ever more brilliant future.'**

*I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear...  
Each singing what belongs to her, and to none else...*

Thus declared Walt Whitman, the poet and standard-bearer of the American Renaissance.

America. The sound of your name makes my heart sing. Dreams and visions spread out before me. Because, more than anything, your land of freedom and hope was pioneered through the victory of knowledge, the victory of learning, the victory of the university.

That struggle began in 1636, with the founding of America's oldest institution of higher learning, Harvard University, a mere 16 years after the arrival of the Mayflower in the New World.

To illuminate human society with the light of scholarship and education—this was the founding spirit. This was the ardent wish of fathers and mothers shedding the sweat of construction in a new land.

The entering student body in 1640 consisted of four youth—Harvard's first president was just 33 years old.

This single droplet, fresh and pure, was to grow into a mighty river of intellectual endeavor, a great flow that would come to reach and touch every part of the world. This brilliant achievement will shine forever in the annals of history.

President Charles William Eliot is known as the father of modern Harvard. He declared that the university exists for the sake of the common people. "We seek to train doers, achievers," he declared, people whose successful careers will serve the public good.

Today, May 3, 2001, Soka University of America takes its first fledgling steps on the long journey into a new century, a new era of education. As we set out,

we are deeply inspired by the educational tradition of the United States, which sees the university as always being at the service of the people and the public. This is indeed just the kind of university we aspire to become.

My heartfelt welcome, appreciation and gratitude to the distinguished representatives of so many different countries, sectors of society and fields of endeavor who have been so gracious to join us today for the dedication of SUA, Aliso Viejo.

And my particular gratitude to our friends and neighbors throughout Orange County who have continued to express their interest in and support for the ideals and aspirations of SUA.

As founder, nothing could be more deeply gratifying or reassuring than that this new university should commence its departure under the warm, protective gaze of so many good friends and supporters.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Further, I am delighted that Governor Gray Davis of California has declared today Soka University of America Day.

Please be assured of our profound commitment and determination to grow and develop into the kind of university that will truly respond to your hopes and expectations, one that will embody the educational ideals of the 21st century.

It is my sincere hope that we will continue to enjoy your warm support as well as your frank advice and guidance.

**Education is the greatest thing we can leave for humanity's future.**

Let me now address the superbly gifted teaching faculty of SUA, the intellectual "engine" who will drive and propel the new university forward. First, my heartfelt gratitude to you for your generosity and



Representatives of the first entering class of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo gather at the university's dedication on May 3. This was their first opportunity to meet one another.

courage in participating in the planning and development of SUA, an uncharted venture into the unknown. My earnest request is that you pool your strengths and talents as you unite around SUA President Daniel Habuki and that you at all times give highest priority to the welfare and best interests of the students.

I am deeply confident that your talents and commitment will enable SUA to develop into a world-class center of higher learning. I look forward to your unfettered, dynamic activities dedicated to the future of human education.

My own commitment to education was further deepened by my encounters with Dr. Arnold Toynbee, one of the great 20th century historians.

Our first meeting was in spring, the mayflower time, of 1972. We met at Dr. Toynbee's home in London. At the time, he was 83, and I was 44.

At the start of our discussion, I expressed my hope that our conversations would offer some suggestions to the people of the future, that people might find some hints for resolving the issues they would face.

I will never forget his response: "I, too, think in terms of the next century. I am much concerned, as you are, about what is going to happen long after even you and certainly I are no longer in this world."

What does one leave to hu-

manity after one's passing? From Dr. Toynbee I learned and reconfirmed the importance of living one's life focused on that overarching question.

For me, the answer is education. It is the university.

The embracing nature of genuine education makes it a force for peace. It can correct and restrain the tendency of religion to become dogmatic, for example. It can connect and build bonds between people the world over.

More than any other human institution, the university can serve as an illuminating source of hope, lighting with wisdom humanity's path into the far future.

Another crucial point Dr. Toynbee stressed was this: "A human being can be manipulated insofar as he can be dehumanized." Nothing more glaringly exemplifies this truth than education—indoctrination—that glorifies, promotes and perpetuates war.

During the dark, maddened days of World War II, the first and second presidents of the Soka Gakkai, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, struggled, at the risk and cost of life itself, to challenge such war-promoting education and to protect the humanity of their students.

As a result, Japan's military authorities suppressed the Soka Gakkai, jailing both men as thought criminals. The father of Soka education, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, died in jail at age 73.

To bequeath to humankind an eternally enduring monument of humanity and justice, an imperishable bastion for the culture of peace—this was the burning desire of the first and second Soka Gakkai presidents. I believe that this has been the anguished cry and hope of all those whose rights and lives have been trampled by violence and tyranny. SUA has been built in an effort to fulfill those hopes and dreams.

**To pursue the people's happiness is the eternally unchanging spirit of America.**

At the same time, I personally embrace a profound sense of appreciation to the United States, for the role your country played in bringing democracy and human rights, including freedom of religion, to postwar Japan. SUA thus also represents some small attempt on my part to repay that truly enormous debt of gratitude.

In the American Declaration of Independence, we find this famous enumeration of inalienable rights—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is striking that Thomas Jefferson chose to replace "property"—which had been seen as the cornerstone of rights—with "the pursuit of happiness." The profound aspiration and insight into human nature that this reflects is, I believe, the eternally unchanging spirit of America.

President Makiguchi likewise declared that happiness is the true goal and purpose of education.

In this land of hope, dedicated to pursuing the universal value of happiness, SUA will strive always to be an institution of higher learning dedicated first and foremost to human happiness.

This is our belief and conviction: That all people on Earth have the right to happiness. That all people inherently possess the capacity for lasting happiness. That it is through fulfilling their unique and noble purpose in life that everyone may realize maximum happiness both for themselves and others.

The world needs leaders who possess the kind of philosophy and vision that can awaken each individual to that unique mission, that can bring forth that capacity for happiness, that can unify humankind toward the noble goal of peace. Education that fosters such leaders is our foremost necessity.

The great Swiss educator Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi left us these words: "Lack of knowledge of your own nature, o man, curbs your wisdom still more than all the external restrictions forced on you."

It is my hope and desire that an unbroken succession of outstanding leaders will depart from these gates to serve humanity in the 21st century. It is my hope and desire that the waves of world citizens, united and awakened to a genuine global ethic, will spread without cease into an ever more brilliant future.

Thus, I have asked that the following principles will serve to guide SUA in its endeavors:

1) Foster leaders of culture in the community.

2) Foster leaders of humanism in society.

3) Foster leaders of pacifism in the world.

4) Foster leaders for the creative coexistence of nature and humanity.

I now wish to address the representatives of the entering class. First, my heartfelt welcome and congratulations! At the same time, my most sincere gratitude to you for having chosen, of so many renowned universities worldwide, to study at the university that I founded.

I place all my trust and hopes in you. I entrust you with the realization of all my dreams for the future.

At the same time, you must know that you are the focus of the hopes and expectations of so many of your fellow citizens worldwide. I hope that you will bear the weight of this great burden of expectation with patience and grace. For it is indeed the 1st graduating class that will set the direction and determine the success or failure of SUA.

It is my wish that you will cross over me to ascend the hope-filled peaks of the 21st century. It will be my pleasure to serve as a foundation and stepping stone for your efforts.

I will pour my entire life into creating the kind of university experience that you can look back on and state without hesitation, "I am glad I chose to study at SUA!" I look forward to the day we can meet and share thoughts on this beautiful campus.

To the SUA graduate students past and present, and to the Soka University of Japan students

visiting for an English-language training program: Thank you for participating in this significant ceremony. As senior members of the Soka educational family, I hope you will all continue to grow and develop.

And my appreciation to the past and present graduate students as well as the faculty and staff of SUA, Calabasas for the many efforts, seen and unseen, that you have exerted to assure the success of today's departure. I will never, for all eternity, forget the pure, precious love for your alma mater that your efforts embody. You all are the founders of SUA. As your fellow practitioner of value-creating education, I embrace the greatest imaginable faith and trust in you. I am praying constantly for your well-being and success.

To all our friends gathered here today: Thank you from the bottom of my heart. In the near future, I hope very much that I will have the opportunity to meet with you and express my appreciation in person.

In closing, I wish to express my hopes and appreciation by sharing again a passage from Walt Whitman, whose poetry I have loved since my youth:

*Pioneers! 0 Pioneers!  
All the past we leave behind;  
We debouch upon a newer,  
mightier world, varied  
world,  
Fresh and strong the world  
we seize, world of labor  
and the march,  
Pioneers! 0 pioneers!*

May 3, 2001  
Daisaku Ikeda  
Founder

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS

## MORE MAY 3, SOKA GAKKAI DAY, POEMS

# The Momentous Victory of Soka

SGI President Ikeda composed these short poems in celebration of May 3, Soka Gakkai Day, and dedicated them to all SGI members around the world. (See the May 11 issue for President Ikeda's previous May 3 poems.)

*At last it has come —  
The goal toward which  
we have long aspired,  
The first May 3  
Of the new century —  
This day, this time.*

◆◆◆◆

*All Buddhas and  
heavenly deities  
Throughout the  
ten directions  
Join us in celebrating  
The momentous victory  
of Soka,  
Praising and protecting us.*

◆◆◆◆

*The courageous roar  
Of 10 million fellow  
members  
Joyfully resounds  
Throughout the world,  
Echoing their  
immeasurable benefit.*

*May 3 shines  
With brilliant splendor —  
The victory of Soka  
Emanating into the future,  
And throughout  
the entire world.*

◆◆◆◆

*Together,  
Having triumphed firmly  
In all our struggles,  
We celebrate May 3 —  
Champions of kosen-rufu!*

◆◆◆◆

*Advancing boldly,  
We have finally scaled  
The dazzling peak  
Of the 21st century —  
Our applause for each  
other unstinting!*

◆◆◆◆

*From the remote past,  
Living our lives with joy,  
We, fellow members in faith,  
Stand up once more  
With noble determination.*

## Subscribe to the Justice Chronicle

The Justice Chronicle is a free, weekly e-mailer for *World Tribune* subscribers about the Soka Spirit movement. Its purpose is to support SGI-USA's ongoing education campaign about this subject in the timeliest fashion possible.

The Justice Chronicle will feature the latest Soka Spirit movement news, SGI President Ikeda's recent guidance about it and study articles explaining the difference between Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and what the temple is teaching.

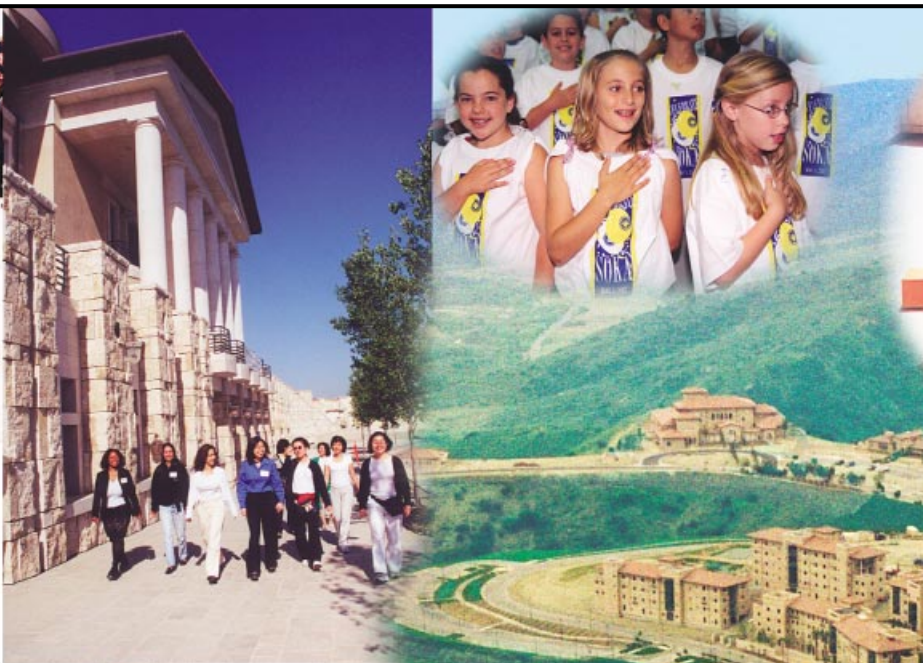
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Last month in Tokyo, SGI President and Mrs. Ikeda view the many roses presented by SGI members to celebrate the opening of the Aliso Viejo campus of Soka University of America.



## Congratulatory Messages

**PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH**

I am delighted to extend warm greetings to all those gathered to dedicate the new campus of Soka University of America.

Excellence in education is vital to our nation's future success. Colleges and universities play an important role in preparing young people to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. By providing students and faculty with the resources and mandate to explore new horizons of knowledge, institutions of



higher learning improve the future for all Americans.

I commend the staff and supporters for their continued commitment to high standards in education. Your efforts on behalf of our young people help ensure that they will be prepared for a future that is filled with hope, promise and opportunity.

*May 3, 2001  
George W. Bush*



**CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER ROSA PARKS**

Congratulations on the grand opening of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo. The new liberal arts campus for young adults of all cultures will encourage growth, vision and human rights.

I am glad this dedication is in the spring of



the year, which represents new birth. Please extend my best wishes of peace and prosperity to Mrs. Ikeda and the SGI family.

*May 3, 2001  
Rosa Parks*



**FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV**

The world of tomorrow begins today.

We are already living in an increasingly interdependent global community. No single country, acting alone, can successfully confront the challenges that we are all facing today. Dialogue, cooperation and partnership based on equality and mutual respect is the only way to build a better world — a task not only for government but also civil society and, indeed, every citizen.

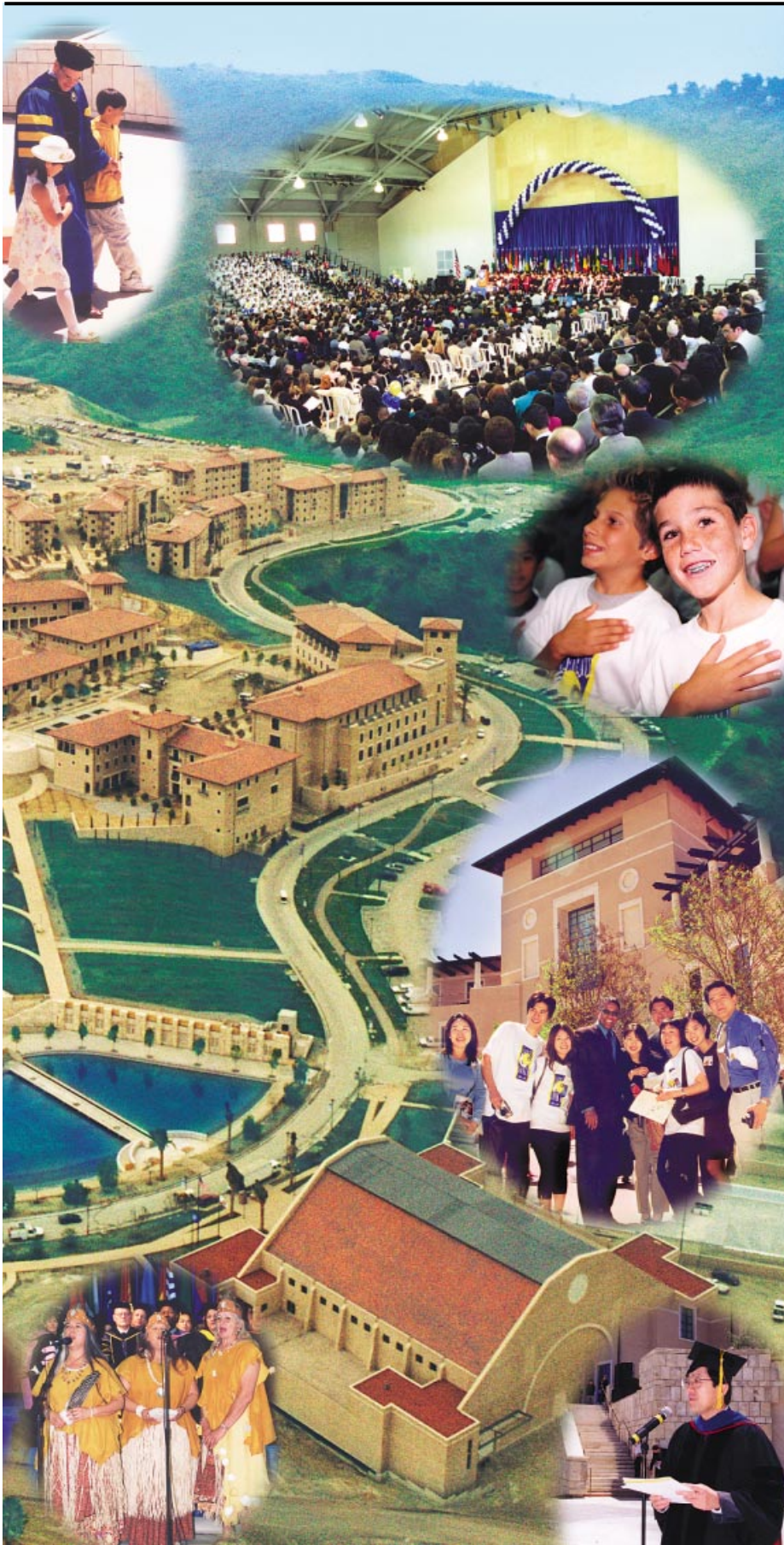
It is my hope that this new university will produce many thoughtful and responsible citi-



zens for the global community of tomorrow. I am confident that it will be a school of both intellectual and moral learning, indispensable for leaders in politics, business and society. I have no doubt that Soka University of America will have a distinguished record of success and will be justly proud of its students and alumni.

*May 3, 2001  
Mikhail Gorbachev*





Photos by BYRON COHEN, ROBBIE EVANS, TOSHI FUJIMOTO, DON HODGSON, LISA HOLLIS, GREGORY NAKASUJI, STEPHANIE SYDNEY

**FROM SUA, 1**

The new campus, which will begin classes in the fall offering a four-year, liberal arts education, welcomed visitors from all over the world, bringing warm wishes of congratulations. Representatives of Aliso Viejo, Calif., and many neighboring communities brought resolutions proclaiming May 3 Soka University of America Day. Messages were also received from politicians, scholars and human rights activists around the world, including President George W. Bush, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Rosa Parks.

"Welcome to Aliso Viejo!" said Carmen Vali, chair of the Aliso Viejo City Council-elect. "We consider this campus a gift to our community. Each year, we will remember this day with reverence and celebrate those with the bold vision to make this dream a reality."

"I can't quite believe this day is finally here," said Dr. Daniel Habuki, president of SUA. "I see this day marking the beginning of a new era for value creation as we advance together along the path of learning."

The ceremony, held in the new Recreation Center, began with a procession of dozens of visiting university presidents and representatives, as well as SUA's board of trustees, faculty and staff. Responding to thunderous applause, 75 representatives of the first entering class of students bounded into the room.

"As a member of the first class, I will strive to become the bridge that links all nations and closes all gaps among enemies," proclaimed Nicole Chu of Culver City, Calif. "I know that the students of SUA will break all barriers to be victorious in this world."

Dr. Alfred Balitzer, dean of faculty at SUA, clarified that "the aim of SUA is to produce

global citizens. Our faculty care about students, and we will put their concerns ahead of all other considerations."

A choir of fifth-graders from all four Aliso Viejo elementary schools performed "Song for the Children," welcoming the audience in a dozen languages. Two of the children also assisted in placing many SUA artifacts in a time capsule to be opened in 100 years.

After a ceremonial blessing from members of the Native American Acjachemen Nation, the original inhabitants of the Aliso Viejo area, and a booming performance from ADAWE, a women's African drum group, everyone moved to Peace Lake and Fountain, located in front of Founders Hall. Dr. Habuki officially opened the campus in the name of SUA's core values of peace, human rights and the sanctity of life.

Visitors then enjoyed lunch and tours of the campus, including viewing the Linus Pauling and the 20th Century exhibition in Founders Hall. The exhibition was opened on May 2, along with the dedication of Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall, and will be on view until June 10 (see story, p. 8).

Feelings of joy at the university's completion were in evidence everywhere. "I pulled into the parking lot and just started crying," said Emily Frausto of Seattle. "This place is the epitome of the good things people can do."

Jason Evans of Norfolk, Va., agreed: "I've been here before but the campus has transformed. It's breathtaking."

"I'm honored to be present to witness this grand occasion," said Herbie Hancock, SGI-USA member and Jazz legend. "The accomplishments of these students and their impact on society will be President Ikeda's legacy."

— Jason Henninger  
contributed to this article.

# SUA DEDICATES PAULING HALL

By **JAMIE LIPTAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall, built on the new Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo campus, was officially dedicated in a beautiful ceremony on May 2. Coinciding with the dedication was the opening of the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibition, which will be on view at SUA, AV through June 10.

Linus Pauling is the only person to ever receive two unshared Nobel prizes, one for his groundbreaking work in chemistry and another recognizing his efforts for peace. Of his wife, Ava Helen, Dr. Pauling would often say that it was her dedication to human rights that propelled him to activism.

Dr. Pauling first met SGI President Ikeda in 1987 at SUA's Calabasas campus, initiating a warm, ongoing dialogue until Dr. Pauling's death in 1994. In an effort to educate the public about the work of



Linda Pauling Kamb (left) and Dr. Linus Pauling Jr. unveil a bust of their late father, Dr. Linus Pauling, at the dedication of Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, May 2.

his great friend, President Ikeda proposed to create the Pauling exhibition shortly before

Pauling's death. Pauling Hall will be the primary teaching facility for the

creative arts and sciences when classes begin this fall. It includes many rooms suited

specifically to those curricula: a 150-seat, multi-media lecture hall; science laboratories; ceramics, sculpture, painting and drawing studios; a photography classroom, a darkroom and digital center; and a musical ensemble room, practice rooms and studios.

"Linus Pauling and Daisaku Ikeda are as broad as the universe itself," said Dr. Alfred Balitzer, dean of faculty at SUA, AV. "They have both taken the cosmos and related it to an individual human life, tying the two together in a most creative and masterful way. That I can go to work every day in Pauling Hall at the university Dr. Ikeda founded is a source of tremendous motivation and pride for me. Right now, I am on cloud nine."

"The mission of SUA is in perfect accord with the way my parents lived their lives," said Dr. Linus Pauling Jr., on hand for the dedication. "I am sure my father would see this as a wonderful confirmation of his endeavors throughout his lifetime." **WT**

## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE SUA LINUS PAULING EVENTS

# The Best of the Best

**Linus Pauling's life was one 'of challenge, deed and conviction,' SGI President Ikeda says. 'This is why Dr. Pauling stands as the best among the best.'**

Please accept my warmest welcome to all of you for joining us today at Soka University of America, whose gates open here in Aliso Viejo blessed by spring's verdure and a new century's dazzling sun.

My heartfelt appreciation and felicitations to each of you on this most auspicious, joyful occasion, the opening of the Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall as well as the exhibition "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century."

These are the first in a four-day series of events commemorating the May 3 dedication of SUA. As one who first proposed to the late Dr. Pauling an

exhibit on his life some years ago, nothing fills me with greater joy than to know that this building and exhibition shall open here, at a university I have founded.

Dr. Linus Pauling — when I reminisce about this man whose greatness time shall never erode, he towers like Everest, sovereign, serene and sublime, over a panorama of lesser peaks and dark valleys that marred the tumultuous 20th century. Peerless in wisdom and character, the warm, noble-hearted Dr. Pauling has stood among the greatest of all great men in my mind.

As our friendship grew over the years, Dr. Pauling graciously extended his support for the ideals of Soka education — which aims to foster global citizens who work for the happiness of humanity — and harbored high hopes for SUA and its future.

I first met Dr. Pauling in February 1987, at SUA's newly opened Calabasas campus in

California, sister school to the Aliso Viejo campus. Our meeting had taken place roughly a century after Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, father of Soka education, embarked upon his life as an educator in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. Makiguchi had long aspired to establish a university to put his theory into practice, a dream which Josei Toda, my own mentor in life, would carry forward. I, too, embraced this vision and, as had the two educators who preceded me, undertook the task to make it a reality.

Given its global calling, this dream would cross the Pacific, to the United States, where its first, tenuous roots were planted at Calabasas. And it was there that Dr. Pauling, one of the world's greatest intellects, had so kindly come to celebrate a new chapter in the annals of Soka education.



The Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Hall will serve as the primary teaching facility for the creative arts and sciences when classes begin this fall at SUA, AV.

PLEASE SEE BEST, 9

# Aliso Viejo Celebrates SUA Opening

By JAMIE LIPTAN  
STAFF WRITER

Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo held its first public event on May 4, welcoming nearly 2,000 people to the new campus. The event included the university's first guest lecture, delivered by Dr. Lawrence Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, and a beautiful

concert by the Aliso Viejo Symphony and other guest artists.

Among those performing were Pascual Olivera and Angela Del Moral, widely considered the world's best Spanish-style dancers. Their performance, which they dedicated to the SUA founder, SGI President Ikeda, brought the audience to their feet over and over again.

In his lecture titled "Growing Into Democracy's Crown,"

Dean Carter praised President Ikeda for founding SUA, declaring that "for the sake of democracy envisioned by our forefathers, for the sake of civilization as conceived by Mahatma Gandhi, and for the sake of civil rights imagined by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we need new educational institutions to teach us Daisaku Ikeda's civility for the uplift of all human personality and the environment. We need Dr. Ikeda's Soka University of America to help us grow up into democracy's crown."

"Today, more than ever," he continued, "we need a certain kind of educational institution that promotes international exchange, cross-cultural dialogue and the environmental justice that is needed for all of us to blossom and self-actualize to the maximum... Why not Dr. Ikeda's idea of a university founded to use the power of education to promote respect and peaceful coexistence around the world?"

The evening also included the debut of two pieces composed by Michael Golden, professor of music at SUA, performed by the Aliso Viejo Symphony, and Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5," performed by the American Victory Orchestra of SGI-USA. **WT**

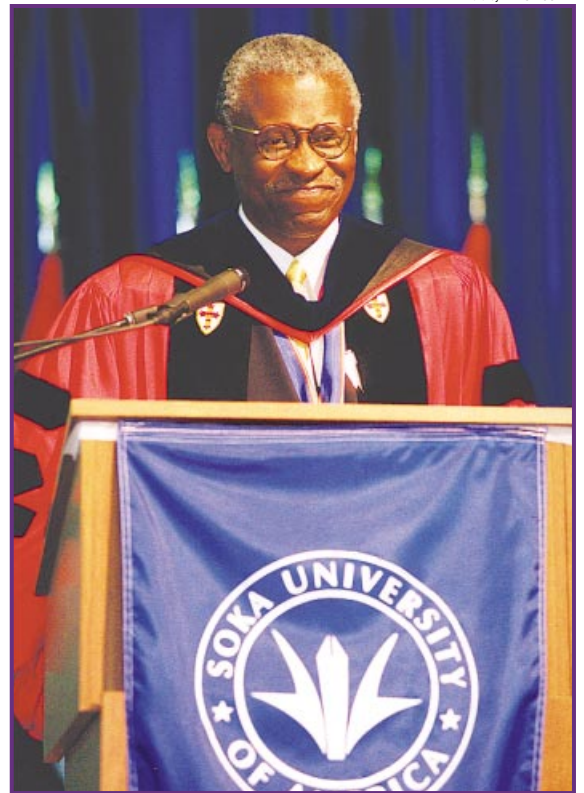


Photo by BYRON COHEN

Dr. Lawrence Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, addresses the crowd at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo on May 3. The following night, Dean Carter delivered the university's first guest lecture.



Photo by GREGORY NAKASUJI

Prospective students and their families tour the new Aliso Viejo campus of Soka University of America, May 5.

## FROM BEST, 8

I shall never forget that day. The debt of gratitude I owe to Dr. Pauling will remain with me for as long as I live.

And here we are today. I cannot help but feel that Dr. Pauling, with whom I have shared a mystic bond, has given SUA his blessings once again. I believe he would indeed be pleased to see that SUA's story as a comprehensive liberal arts college is now about to unfold, at the dawn of the 21st century.

We are honored that Dr. Linus Pauling Jr. and the Pauling family have graciously consented in naming this academic hall after the late scientist and his beloved wife. An endless procession of young people, their hearts impassioned by a longing to learn, will come from around the world to pass through its doors. That is why the names of Linus and Ava Helen Pauling crown this hall—to forever instruct

every SUA student, from this year onward, that they must learn from the best.

**The true greatness of the Paulings was their quiet dignity and unshakable integrity.**

Do I say this because Dr. Pauling is the only person in history to win two unshared Nobel Prizes? Absolutely not. The awards and prominence the Paulings achieved are significant, but the lesson most relevant to us is the way they chose to live.

No accolade or accusation ever affected Linus and Ava Helen Pauling, their true greatness lying in the quiet dignity and unshakable integrity they shared. Herein lies the lesson we must learn. Dr. Pauling's commitment to peace and humanitarianism never faltered, and he would advance onward with lifelong partner Ava Helen in times of trial as well as triumph, pledging allegiance not to any na-

tion but to humanity alone.

Even in his 90s, Dr. Pauling stood at the forefront of modern medicine, looking less like an aged scholar than an eager student, with rosy cheeks and radiant eyes—and a mind thirsting for discovery. During one of our meetings, which regrettably proved to be our last, he related his latest research on the efficacy of vitamins as a treatment for heart disease. I was stunned to learn that he had already seen three patients and had them treated that day before he came to see me.

His was a life of challenge, deed and conviction. This is why Dr. Pauling stands as the best among the best.

**Soka education exists to foster people who create genuine value for all humanity.**

In his book *The System of Value-creating Pedagogy*, in which Makiguchi first advances his educational model, he describes the purpose of ed-

ucation: "Life, ultimately, is a quest for value. Happiness is an ideal state of life in which value has been found and given expression. Thus, it is the duty of education, whose goal is to lead everyone to happiness, to empower people with a robust capacity to enjoy and create value."

To foster individuals who, under the severest circumstances, create genuine value for the sake of humanity—this was the uncompromising conviction of Makiguchi, who died in prison resisting Japanese militarism. His life shows an extended similarity to Dr. Pauling's, for the latter was also a constant creator of value through his peerless wisdom, resulting in his remarkable contributions to science, medicine, peace and humanitarianism.

If Dr. Pauling's life could be shared with as many people as possible, that itself would provide an ideal education on peace and humanism—that was what led me in 1993 to pro-

pose to Dr. Pauling the idea of holding this exhibit.

Due to the warm support of so many people and organizations, the Pauling exhibition, which first opened in San Francisco in 1998, has been a resounding success in the five cities it has toured to date. And now, to my sheer joy, it graces this new campus with its extraordinary message of hope.

I hope that everyone in Orange County, especially its youth, has the opportunity to view this exhibit and draw inspiration from it.

I close these words of gratitude with my very best wishes to each of you: May you enjoy the best of health and happiness. I also wish for the further success of all the concerned organizations whose support has been invaluable in making this splendid day a reality.

May 2, 2001  
Daisaku Ikeda  
Founder  
Soka University of America

# Breaking Ground in Phoenix

By **DIANA DECKER**  
PHOENIX CORRESPONDENT

**SGI-USA celebrates the groundbreaking of the new Phoenix Culture Center and gives part of the new property to the City of Phoenix for permanent access to a mountain trail.**

**S**GI-USA members in the Phoenix area had a double celebration April 21—one for the neighbors near the new Phoenix Culture Cen-

ter and one for themselves. SGI-USA's commitment to being a good neighbor was the message throughout.

The dedication of the eastern portion of the property, where the new culture center will stand, assured neighbors permanent access to a horse trail leading into the Phoenix Mountains Preserve. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new SGI-USA Phoenix Culture Center followed. The new center will seat 250, have classrooms and offices, and should be completed in the fall.

Nearby residents were delighted as Al Albergate, SGI-USA director of community relations, handed to City of

Phoenix representatives the deed to the eastern edge of the property that includes the horse trail. Then the crowd gathered under a white canopy for the ground-breaking. Red, blue and yellow table umbrellas and a stage backdrop in the same SGI colors stood out against the brown and rust hues of Squaw Peak, a Phoenix landmark.

The Phoenix Mountains Preserve is treasured for its beauty as well as being a wonderful place to hike, bicycle and ride horses. When the former property owner, a saddle club, put the parcel on the market two years ago, a fence was built blocking access to the trail. Neighbors were angry. The donation of the trail area to ensure permanent access solves the problem.

At the ground-breaking, Al Albergate gave neighbors a brief history of SGI, from Shakyamuni to Nichiren, from Makiguchi and Toda to President Ikeda, all the while emphasizing the SGI's commitment to world peace, culture and education. A member of the contracted architectural firm told the neighbors that the new, one-story, 6,000 square-foot building will blend in with the neighboring architecture and will even be lower than some of the nearby homes. A representative from the general contractor discussed controlling dust during con-

struction and other issues.

Local SGI-USA leaders Susan Brewer and Briz Ogburn outlined the activities and events that will take place in the new center and the variety of community issues the members take part in. A Q-and-A session followed, addressing traffic concerns and other issues.

Susan and another member, Ed Casper, had walked the neighborhood in recent weeks, knocking on doors to get resi-

dents' thoughts and concerns. An invitation to the dedication and ground breaking went to 90 neighbors. Several called George Nakamura, Arizona Region men's leader, with their comments. One caller, Mike Hull, was enthusiastic about SGI-USA joining the neighborhood. Mike worked in Japan for a Japanese company for five years, speaks Japanese and has a friend who learned Japanese at Soka University in Tokyo. The son of the current Arizona governor, Mike offered to speak at the dedication and addressed the crowd in both Japanese and English. **WT**

Photo by DIANA DECKER



**SGI-USA representatives donate property to the City of Phoenix. (L-r) Tom Fitzgerald, trail coordinator for the City of Phoenix Department of Parks, Recreation and Libraries, George Nakamura, SGI-USA Arizona Region men's leader, Mike Hull, neighbor and Yayoi Higashida, SGI-USA member.**

## HOW TO SUBMIT AN EXPERIENCE

# Got an Experience in Faith? We Want to Hear It!

**T**here is nothing that can explain the power of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism as well as someone sharing his or her experience. It makes Buddhist practice very real and tangible.

If you have had an experience that you want to share, or know of someone else who has had a great experience, please submit it to the *World Tribune*.

### Here is what you need to prepare:

- The experience should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words, or roughly four or five typed, double-spaced pages.
- You should include at least three good photos of yourself. These could include photos of yourself with friends or family who are mentioned in the experience. Please include the name of the photographer.
- You should also include contact information: name, address, phone number, e-mail address, SGI-USA region.

### The experience needs to answer a few questions:

- What was the problem or obstacle you faced?
- How was the problem/ob-

stacle overcome with your Buddhist practice? What was the turning point? How did this experience revolutionize your life?

- What was the outcome?

### What you should expect:

- Due to the volume of experiences we receive, we cannot publish every experience submitted. But we will review them all and confirm receipt.
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### Where to submit:

- Via e-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org
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That's it. We thank you in advance for your submissions. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your victories in faith.

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# the new HUMAN REVOLUTION

SGI President Ikeda's novelized history of the Soka Gakkai

## 'JEWELLED SWORD'

VOLUME 8, CHAPTER 2, PARTS 5-6

*'Even if believers are told consistently that persecutions will definitely come, many will still end up abandoning the supreme Law of Buddhism,' Shin'ichi Yamamoto tells a training group. 'It is the nature of foolish people to forget their vows at the crucial moment. Of utmost importance is what we do — how we decide to live — at that instant, that time when the Soka Gakkai is being persecuted.'*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto then encouraged the participants at the young women's division leaders meeting to return home from activities at a sensible hour. "The journey to spread Nichiren Daishonin's philosophy throughout the world is a long one," he said. "It will not do anyone any good if you get into a vicious cycle of coming home late every night and pushing yourself to the point of exhaustion.

"It is important to exercise common sense and behave in a way that is socially acceptable. I wouldn't know what to say to your parents if you had some kind of accident because you were out late doing Soka Gakkai activities. I therefore suggest that the young women's division members return home from activities by 10:00 p.m. at the latest. And I would like the leaders to see to it that the members are able to do so, and to strictly advise them if they do not."

Time passes quickly when we are earnestly engaged in Soka Gakkai activities. But when we set a limit on our time, we come up with innovative ways to be more efficient and avoid doing things out of habit. We can also prevent accidents. This is how we create value.

At the young women's division leaders meeting, Shin'ichi had given the members a goal for the future, refuted unfounded criticisms of the Soka Gakkai, emphasized the importance of personal encouragement, and even gone so far as to offer concrete guidance on the time that members should return to their homes.

Youth are the "jeweled sword" in the endeavor to build

a peaceful world based on the Daishonin's teachings, and Shin'ichi spared no effort in polishing them.

On July 6, the day after the meeting, training sessions began for the Suiko-kai and the Kayo-kai, the respective training groups of the young men's and young women's divisions, in Amagi on the Izu Peninsula. Shin'ichi energetically joined in these activities. Some of the participants had already "graduated" from the youth division, but the majority were active members taking central responsibility for both divisions. Shin'ichi had been devoting every ounce of his energy to the education of youth, so for him these gatherings were highly significant.

The members of the Suiko-kai left Tokyo at 6:00 a.m. and arrived at Amagi after playing team sports on the beach at Kisami in Shimoda, Izu. Shin'ichi left Tokyo on a train bound for Shimoda just after noon, traveling with general director Koichi Harayama and others. When he arrived at his lodgings in Amagi that evening, youth division leader Eisuke Akizuki came with other leaders to greet him. Shin'ichi spoke to them with great conviction: "Is everyone raring to go? Let's make this a training session for raising great leaders of the essential phase!"

The words flowed from Shin'ichi's mouth. The training had already begun. "The important thing for a Suiko-kai member is to live out your life upholding the Soka Gakkai spirit. Right now our movement to spread the

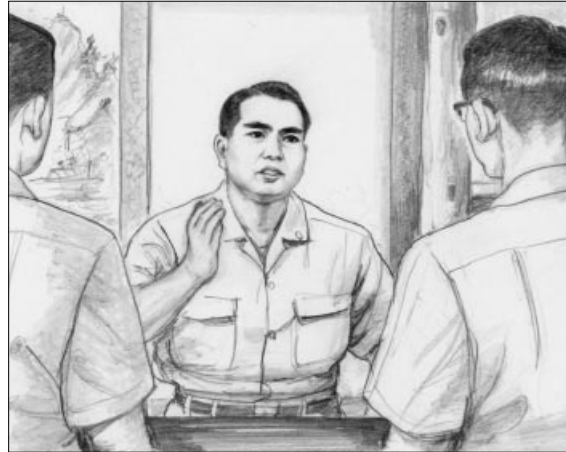


Illustration by KENICHIRO UCHIDA

Daishonin's teachings is advancing smoothly. But this will not always be the case. As the Daishonin writes: 'Do not expect good times, but take the bad times for granted' (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 998).

"The Soka Gakkai spirit means resolutely standing up when our organization is faced with great difficulty and under heavy fire. The Daishonin also says: 'Although I and my disciples may encounter various difficulties, if we do not harbor doubts in our hearts, we will as a matter of course attain Buddhahood. Do not have doubts simply because heaven does not lend you protection. Do not be discouraged because you do not enjoy an easy and secure existence in this life' (WND, 283).

"This is the lofty spirit of advancing the spread of the Mystic Law exactly as the Daishonin's Buddhism teaches, regardless of how powerfully the storms of adversity may blow. No matter how severe the obstacles we face or how long they endure, we mustn't doubt the protection of the heavenly deities. Genuine Buddhist practice is to carry out faith undauntedly to the very end.

"Those who complain, criticize and bemoan the fact that the path to achieving our great goal is rough and difficult are not practitioners of the Daishonin's philosophy. They are not real believers.

"The Daishonin further states: 'This is what I have taught my disciples morning and evening, and yet they begin to harbor doubts and abandon their

faith. Foolish men are likely to forget the promises they have made when the crucial moment comes.' (WND, 283). Even if believers are told consistently that persecutions will definitely come, many will still end up abandoning the supreme Law of Buddhism. It is the nature of foolish people to forget their vows at the crucial moment. Of utmost importance is what we do — how we decide to live — at that instant, that time when the Soka Gakkai is being persecuted. Such situations reveal a person's true mettle."

Akizuki and the others sensed extraordinary determination in Shin'ichi's guidance, which poured from him like an endless fountain. They also felt that Shin'ichi's words expressed his tremendous hopes and expectations for the Suiko-kai and for the youth division.

Shin'ichi continued: "Mr. Toda told me that after his release from prison at the end of the war, he asked his wife in great detail about the attitude and behavior of the members during his incarceration. Later, when his business reached a desperate impasse, he paid close attention to the reactions of his disciples and watched to see what they would do. He was observing their true nature. What we do, how we act, at the crucial moment is what determines ultimate victory or defeat."

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1963.

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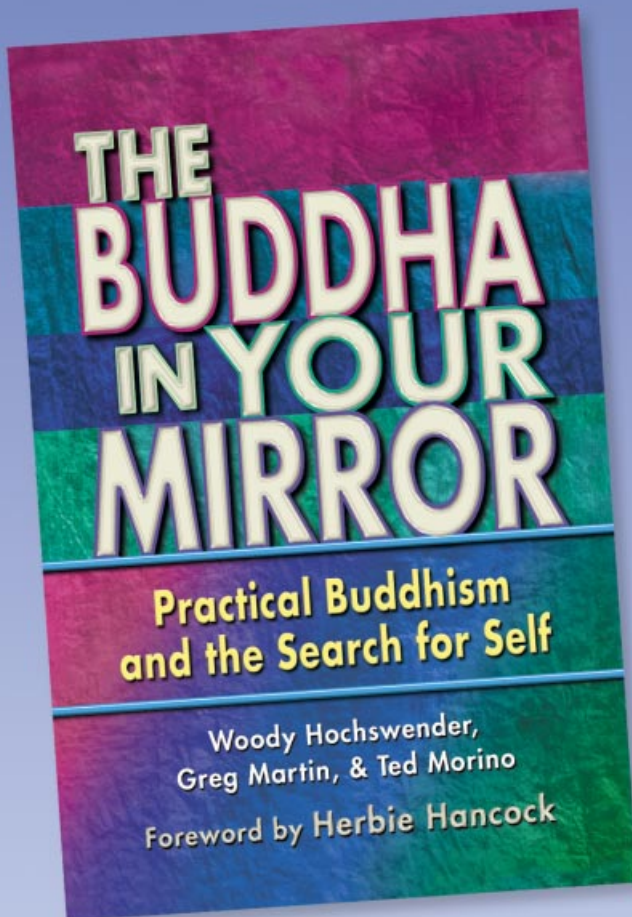
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# A New Introduction to Nichiren Buddhism



"*The Buddha in Your Mirror* puts Nichiren's profound concepts into readily accessible terms. Whether you're reading this book out of mere curiosity, or you have a crying need to elevate your life and circumstances, I encourage you to give the practical advice offered in *The Buddha in Your Mirror* a solid try."

—From the foreword by Herbie Hancock

A practical, how-to journey into Nichiren Buddhism. With chapters on happiness, health, relationships and dealing with death, *The Buddha in Your Mirror* takes a self-help approach to explaining the practice and philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism. Emphasizing its practical aspect, the book explains Buddhism in down-to-earth language that anyone can relate to. A perfect book for new members, friends and family.

"Like the Buddha, this book offers practical guidelines to overcome difficulties in everyday life and to be helpful to others. The authors have done a great service in bringing the profound practices of Asian Buddhism into American idioms. Readers will find these pages are like a helpful and supportive friend. I enthusiastically recommend it."

—Dr. David Chappell, editor of  
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